

# CHEMICAL WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM

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***SOLVENT WITH HIGH BTU VALUE:*** NIH uses large quantities of organic solvents in research and support operations. Solvents like Acetonitrile, Ethyl Acetate, Hexanes, Xylene, Acetone and Alcohols are used in research processes to synthesize, extract, isolate, or purify chemicals of biomedical interest. These spent liquids are collected in the labs in blue plastic carboys, white solvent safety cans or bottles of various sizes as illustrated. Also shown below is a solvent effluent from an HPLC unit draining into a 5 gallon blue carboy.



The picked up carboys and bottles from the labs are all taken to Bldg 21 Processing Facility and are received and bar-coded into the NIH's Waste Management Tracking Information System (WMTIS) for inventory before storage at designated locations. The carboys are all sampled individually and tested on-site for flammability, mercury, and radioactivity before being transferred into 55 gallons metal drums that are labeled for shipment. The spent solvents drums are transported weekly to approved companies that would use it as a fuel substitute in their manufacture of cement instead of shipment for wastes destruction at hazardous waste incinerators.

